

effective amount of erythropoietin[, an erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof].

18. (Amended) A method of treating symptoms associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient [an] a rheumatoid arthritis symptom treating effective amount of erythropoietin[, an erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof].

20. (Amended) A method of ameliorating a disease activity of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient [an] a rheumatoid arthritis disease activity ameliorating effective amount of erythropoietin[, an erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof].

22. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the erythropoietin[, erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof,] is of recombinant origin.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the erythropoietin[, erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof,] is of recombinant origin.